

ALLAN LINE

ABC/L
10,14,8/7
4½(sideways)
Cat. No. 57

Allan Brothers & Co., Ltd.
Liverpool.

Captain Allan, part owner of the Brig Jean, made his first trip to Canada in June 1819, to establish a fairly regular sailing connection between the two countries. An office to take charge of the affairs of this enterprise eventually opening in Greenock. After his retirement from the sea Captain Allan opened an office in Glasgow. His eldest son James and his younger brother took over the business, changing the name to James & Alexander Allan,

The second son of Captain Allan, Hugh, went to Canada in the brig Favorite in 1826, eventually joining the Montreal firm of Millar & Company, (later Millar, Edmonstone & Co.) ship builders and shipping agents. With the admittance of Hugh as a partner in 1835, the name changed to Millar, Edmonstone & Allan. The death of Mr Millar in 1838 paved the way for brother Andrew, the name changing yet again to Edmonstone, Allan & Company. Retirement of Edmonstone in 1860 caused the alteration to Hugh & Andrew Allan.

In 1853, Hugh Allan, with his four brothers formed the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company in Montreal. It was this Company that came to be more widely known as the Allan Line.

Bryce Allan, the fifth son of the original sea dog, left the sea in 1856 and established an office in Liverpool - Allan Brothers. In the same year the Allans obtained the Canadian Government contract to carry mails to Liverpool.

July 1871 saw the climax to Hugh Allan's career when he was knighted by Queen Victoria. A remarkable man, besides being a Director of the Bank of Montreal, he founded the Merchants Bank of Canada and was appointed President of the Provisional Board of Directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Several changes took place towards the end of the century culminating in the registration of Allan Brothers & Company, Liverpool & London Ltd., in March 1898 ~Lt Liverpool.

By September 7th 1909, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company had purchased all the capital stock of the Allan Line, although a great deal of time and energy was spent in denying it.

It was not until September 1915 that it was officially announced that the combined fleets of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the combined Allan steamships would operate under the title "Canadian Pacific Ocean Services Ltd.," as from October 1st 1915.

For advertising and other purposes the Allan Line continued to exist until July 16th 1917.

Issues Reported

King Edward VII ½d, 1d.
King George V(Mackennal) ½d, 1d

Postmarks

London
Oct 4 1905 - Jan 13 1911

Positive identification is provided by a piece in the K. Rymer Young collection.